<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>:

Please cancel Claim 67 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein.

Please amend Claims 1-10, 13-15, 27, 41, 65 and 66 as follows.

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1. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

discrimination means for discriminating <u>a process,</u> ~~when registering data, timing to apply electronic watermark data, among processes regarding the data~~ <u>in which an electronic watermark is to be applied to data that is to be registered, from among a plurality of different processes that are executed for the data to be registered</u>; and

registration means for registering the data ~~so that the electronic watermark is applied to the data at the timing discriminated by said discrimination means~~ <u>to be registered and management information based on the discrimination by said discrimination means so that the electronic watermark is applied to the data to be registered during the process discriminated by said discrimination means</u>.

2. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said discrimination means discriminates ~~timing of registering the data or timing~~ <u>between a process of registering the data and a process to be executed</u> after registering the data.

3. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said discrimination means discriminates among one of ~~timing of registering the data, timing of sending the registered data, or timing~~ a process of registering the data, a process of sending the registered data, and a process of printing the registered data.

4. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising output means for outputting the data after the electronic watermark has been removed ~~for said~~ from the data.

5. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

print means for printing the data after the electronic watermark has been removed from the data[[,]]; and

display means for displaying data which the electronic watermark is applied to.

6. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein ~~said timing of printing~~ the process of printing the registered data is for sending the data to a printer.

7. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the electronic watermark is removed from ~~said data by said output device~~ the data when the data is sent to the printer.

8. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein~~, when the output of said data is completed, said output device deletes data received from said information processing apparatus~~ the printer deletes data received from said information processing apparatus when print of the data is completed.

9. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein~~, during the data output process, said output device does not halt said data output process~~ during printing of the data by the printer, the printer does not halt printing of the data even upon receiving ~~of~~ a halting instruction.

10. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said discrimination means further discriminates a method of applying an electronic watermarking method among plurality of electronic watermarking methods.

11. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said plurality of electronic watermarking methods include at the least a first

method for employing an electronic watermark as visible information, and a second method for

employing an electronic watermark as invisible information.

12. (Original) An information processing apparatus according to claim 10,

wherein said plurality of electronic watermarking methods include at the least a third method for

employing an electronic watermark as removable information, and a fourth method for

employing an electronic watermark as unremovable information.

13. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to

claim 1, wherein said discrimination means further discriminates electronic watermark

information to be applied to the data.

14. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus according to

claim 1, further comprising management means for managing the ~~timing~~ process discriminated

by said discrimination means for each registered data.

15. (Currently Amended) An information processing system ~~having a plurality of~~

~~information processing devices~~ that executes a plurality of different processes for data to be

provided by a user, comprising:

discrimination means for discriminating, ~~when registering data in a predetermined~~

~~information processing device, timing to apply electronic watermark data, among processes~~

regarding the data, and a process, in which an electronic watermark is to be applied to data that is to be registered, from among the plurality of different processes;

registration means for registering the data so that the electronic watermark is applied to the data at the timing discriminated to be registered and management information based on the discrimination by said discrimination means; and

applying means for applying an electronic watermark to the data provided by a sure during the process designated by the management information.

16. - 26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) A control method for an information processing apparatus comprising:

a discrimination step of discriminating, when registering data, timing to apply electronic watermark data, among processes regarding the data a process, in which an electronic watermark is to be applied to data that is to be registered, from among a plurality of different processes that are executed for the data to be registered; and

a registration step of registering the data so that the electronic watermark is applied to the data at the timing to be registered and management information based on the discrimination in said discrimination step so that the electronic watermark is applied to the data to be registered during the process discriminated in said discrimination step.

28. - 40. (Canceled)

41. (Currently Amended) A control method for a system ~~having a plurality of information processing devices~~ that executes a plurality of different processes for data to be provided by a user, comprising:

a discrimination step of discriminating, ~~when registering data in a predetermined information processing device, timing to apply electronic watermark data, among processes regarding the data, and~~ a process, in which an electronic watermark is to be applied to data that is to be registered, from among the plurality of different processes;

a registration step of registering the data ~~so that the electronic watermark is applied to the data at the timing discriminated~~ to be registered and management information based on the discrimination in said discrimination step; and

an applying step of applying an electronic watermark to the data provided by a user during the process designated by the management information.

42. - 64. (Canceled)

65. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

~~discrimination means for discriminating, when registering data, a timing process to apply electronic watermark data among timing of registering the data and timing of sending the registered data~~ decision means for deciding, based on an intended use of image data, at least

one of (i) a process during which an electronic watermark is to be applied to the image data from among a plurality of processes to be executed for the image data, (ii) information to be applied to the image data as an electronic watermark, and (iii) a type of an electronic watermark to be applied to the image data; and

registration means for registering the ~~data so that the electronic watermark is applied to the data before registering the data or upon sending the data in accordance with the discrimination by said discrimination means~~ image data based on the decision by said decision means so that the electronic watermark is applied to the image data in accordance with the decision by said decision means.

66. (Currently Amended) ~~A system having a plurality of information processing devices~~ An information processing system that executes a plurality of different processes for image data to be provided by a user, comprising:

~~discrimination means for discriminating, when registering data in a predetermined information processing device, a timing process to apply electronic watermark data among timing of registering the data and timing of sending the registered data; and~~ decision means for deciding, based on an intended use of image data, at least one of (i) a process during which an electronic watermark is to be applied to the image data from among a plurality of processes to be executed for the image data, (ii) information to be applied to the image data as an electronic watermark, and (iii) a type of an electronic watermark to be applied to the image data;

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registration means for registering the ~~data so that the electronic watermark is~~ ~~applied to the data before registering the data or upon sending the data in accordance with the~~ ~~discrimination by said discrimination~~ image data and management information based on the decision by said decision means so that the electronic watermark is applied to the image data in accordance with the decision by said decision means; and

applying means for applying an electronic watermark to the image data based on the management information registered by said registration means.

67. (Canceled)